

# Public Assistance

## Disaster Guidance Attachment E

FEMA-1498-DR-CA

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No. 1

Debris Eligibility

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1. Collection and disposal of hazardous waste from burn sites (including private property) by an eligible applicant is eligible for FEMA reimbursement.
2. The demolition of buildings on private property that have been condemned and constitute an immediate threat to the safety of the general public may be eligible for funding; however, the removal of the debris is not eligible, unless it contains hazardous materials. Debris removal in this case is limited to only that material which is hazardous, and should be separated during demolition to avoid contamination of surrounding debris. (see Number 1 above).
3. The collection and disposal of debris on the public right-of-way and/or the operation of centrally located debris drop-off locations on public property made available to the general public is eligible for FEMA reimbursement. Reasonable project management and related administration costs (including public notices, meetings, etc.) associated with a coordinated effort to remove debris from the public right-of-way is eligible for FEMA reimbursement. Eligible applicants must submit the coordinated plan, including estimates for project management and administrative costs, to the OES/FEMA PAO for prior approval, through the OES/FEMA PAC.
4. FEMA may reimburse an eligible applicant for (1) the dewatering of swimming pools that constitute a threat to the health and safety of the general public, and (2) construction of a temporary protection fence around the pool, or (3) with prior approval from FEMA, other methods as proposed by eligible applicants.
5. The removal of trees damaged by fire is not eligible for FEMA funding with the exception of trees in imminent danger of falling on a public right-of-way. Eligible applicants should identify those trees that threaten public right-of-way and arrange, through the OES/FEMA PAC, for an eligibility review prior to removal.
6. FEMA may reimburse an eligible applicant for limited testing of ash by geographical area for the purpose of establishing a threat to the health and safety of the general public.
7. The removal of fire related debris from private property by a public entity is generally not considered eligible work by FEMA (with the exception of hazardous materials, see Number 1 above). 44 CFR Section 206.224 contains criteria that must be met in order to be considered for eligibility. However, as the primary responsibility for the removal of debris from private property rests with the property owner who may have numerous resources available to them including, insurance proceeds, SBA monies, IHP monies, volunteers to remove debris from their property to the public right-of-way, the case for eligibility under Section 206.224 is difficult to make, and can only be made on a case by case basis. OES/FEMA PACs should notify the OES/FEMA PAO when eligible applicants are contemplating a coordinated approach for further guidance.

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OES Concurrence

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FEMA Concurrence